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LETTER DATED 12 OCTOBER 1992 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ARMENIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Upon the instruction of my Government, I respectfully request an urgent meeting of the Security Council.

Armenia welcomes and fully supports the efforts of the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe (CSCE) and especially those of the Minsk process, which are directed towards the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Armenia was encouraged when Mario Rafaelli, Chairman of the CSCE Peace Conference in Minsk, came to the region on 24 August with a specific proposal for the establishment of a 60-day cease-fire. Unfortunately, a cease-fire agreement was not successfully negotiated during Mr. Rafaelli's visit. However, in an effort to support the CSCE peace process, representatives of the Russian Federation and Kazakhstan held a meeting with the Defence Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan at Sochi, Russia, on 21 September to negotiate and enter into a cease-fire agreement. This meeting did result in the signing of a cease-fire agreement, which was to become effective 26 September. Regretfully, there have already been serious violations of the 21 September agreement. Yet, despite the continuing violations of the cease-fire, Armenia is of the belief that if effective mechanisms are put in place there is hope that a cease-fire agreement can be successfully implemented.

On 29 September, Abulfaz Elchibey, President of Azerbaijan, issued a statement declaring that Azerbaijan is committed to finding a political solution to all international conflicts in full accord with the Charter of the United Nations, the Final Act of CSCE and the Helsinki Declaration. He further stated that he is in support of all efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution of the conflict in Nagorno-Karabakh. President Elchibey followed up his statement by sending a telex the same day to Mario Rafaelli and the heads of States of Russia, Kazakhstan, Belarus and Ukraine, stating that in accordance with the Sochi agreement, Azerbaijan is ready to accept observers in the region.

President Elchibey's statement and subsequent telex indicate a willingness and readiness to enter into a lasting cease-fire agreement and further indicate consent to the placement of observers in the region. This shift in policy has created a window of opportunity which should not be allowed to close without taking substantial efforts to establish peace in Nagorno-Karabakh.

The Republic of Armenia appeals to the United Nations to lend its vast experience and established mechanisms to bring about and implement a lasting cease-fire agreement. Specifically, the Government of Armenia requests that the Secretary-General designate as soon as possible a special representative and send to the region a United Nations team of observers to assist the parties in reaching a cease-fire agreement and to monitor the situation thereafter. The United Nations, by the action of the Security Council, could enhance and move forward the peace initiatives of CSCE, thereby laying the groundwork for substantive talks to be conducted at the CSCE Minsk Conference. The CSCE has invested substantial efforts in working towards the peaceful resolution of this conflict and its efforts should be supported so that they may result in a successful outcome.

On 26 August 1992, the President of the Security Council issued a statement stating, "[t]he members of the Council will consider, further, the role of the United Nations in Nagorno-Karabakh at an appropriate time in light of the development of the situation in the area". The Government of Armenia respectfully requests an urgent meeting of the Security Council because we are certain that the appropriate time for the direct involvement of the United Nations is now.

I would be grateful if the text of this letter would be circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Alexander ARZOUMANIAN
Permanent Representative